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II. CLAIMS

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining an environmental condition by measuring a comprising the measurement of a natural biochemical composition of by detecting qualitatively or quantitatively a plurality of different biomolecules in one or more microorganisms exposed to said environmental condition, wherein said composition specifically changes as a result of a reaction of the microorganism under the influence of said environmental condition, and determining said environmental condition on basis of said measurement.
- 2. (Currently Amended) A method for determining changes in an environmental condition by measuring changes in comprising the measurement of a natural biochemical composition of by detecting qualitatively or quantitatively a plurality of different biomolecules in one or more microorganisms exposed to said changes in an environmental condition, wherein said composition specifically changes as a result of a reaction of the microorganism under the influence of said environmental condition, and determining said changes in an environmental condition on basis of said measurement.
- 3. (Currently Amended) A method for determining an environmental condition comprising the steps of measuring a <u>natural</u> biochemical composition of <u>by detecting qualitatively or quantitatively a plurality of different biomolecules in</u> one or more microorganisms exposed to said environmental condition, comparing said biochemical composition to a predetermined calibration line of a plurality of biochemical compositions of said one or more microorganisms obtained by means of exposure of said one or more microorganisms to a plurality of environmental conditions and determining said environmental condition by means of the position of said biochemical composition on said calibration line.
- 4. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claims 1-3 claim 1, wherein said one or more microorganisms comprise bacteria, fungi and/or yeasts.

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5. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of the preceeding claims claim 1, wherein said biochemical composition comprises the transcriptome, the proteome and/or the metabolome of a microorganism.

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- 6. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of the preceeding claims claim 1, wherein said biochemical composition is the transcriptome.
- 7. (Currently Amended) A method according to elaim 5 or 6 claim 5, wherein said biochemical composition is determined using microarrays.
- 8. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a process, comprising a method according to claim 1.
- 9. (Original) A method for controlling a process, comprising a method according to claim 8.
- 10. (Currently Amended) Use of a A method according to claim 1, wherein of determining an environmental condition of a food preparation process, a biofilm formation process, a fermentation process and/or a bioconversion process is determined by measuring a natural biochemical composition present in said process by detecting qualitatively or quantitatively a plurality of different biomolecules in one or more microorganisms present in said process, and determining said environmental condition on basis of said measurement.
- 11. (Currently Amended) Use of a A method according to any one of claims 1-9 claim 1, for determining a chemical and/or biological substance in air and/or aqueous environment comprising measuring a natural biochemical composition in said environment by detecting qualitatively or quantitatively a plurality of different biomolecules in one or more microorganisms in said environment and determining the

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presence of said chemical and/or biological substance on basis of said measurement.